



DRAFT MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Thursday, October 16, 2025

At 4:01 p.m. Chair Hansen called the Regular Sustainability Commission meeting to order at the Quinlan Conference Room, 10185 North Stelling Road and via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Susan Hansen, Vice Chair Alexander Fung and Commissioners Jack Carter, Sonali Padgaonkar, and Conny Yang. Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Subject: July 17, 2025 Sustainability Commission minutes
Recommended Action: Approve July 17, 2025 minutes

MOTION: Carter moved and Yang seconded to approve the July 17, 2025 minutes. Ayes: Hansen, Fung, Carter, Padgaonkar, Yang. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

POSTPONEMENTS — None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Owen spoke about an application: Living Footprints, a free, computer-based app that teaches users about environmental impacts through interactive, game-like experiences. Inspired by an AP Environmental Science class, it covers 12–15 topics like energy use and recycling.

Gotham spoke about his development of Restore, a mobile app that lets users track eco-friendly actions and stay motivated through goals, challenges, and social features. It also offers educational resources on environmental topics. He hopes to share and grow the app within the community.

STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Vice Chair Fung and Commissioner Carter reported on the Youth Summit, noting the enthusiasm and engagement of the high school students and encouraging their continued participation in Sustainability Commission meetings.

Commissioner Padgaonkar reported on her attendance at Bike Fest.

Commissioner Yang provided an update on the upcoming Recycling and Waste Reduction Committee meeting.

Commissioner Carter reported on his attendance at the Fall Festival.

Chair Hansen reported her attendance at Santa Cruz Splash.

Commissioner Carter stated that the Economic Development Committee has not started.

OLD BUSINESS — None

NEW BUSINESS

2. Subject: Receive a presentation on state legislation related to sustainability policy.
Recommended Action: Receive the presentation and discuss state legislation related to sustainability policy.

Sustainability Specialist, Victoria Morin, gave a presentation.

Commissioners asked questions and made comments, which staff responded to.

Chair Hansen opened the public comment period and, seeing no one, closed the public comment period.

3. Subject: Receive a presentation about the most recent (2024) waste characterization study.
Recommended Action: Receive the presentation and discuss the waste characterization study results.

Environmental Programs and Sustainability Manager, Ursula Syrova, gave a presentation.

Commissioners asked questions which staff responded to.

Chair Hansen opened the public comment period and, seeing no one, closed the public comment period.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee members added the following future agenda items.

- Discussion of a possible Sustainability Commission event or panel focused on consumption (Padgaonkar, Fung)

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:12 p.m. Chair Hansen adjourned the Regular Sustainability Commission meeting.

Minutes prepared by:

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